



**For separating couples who want to attend dispute resolution with their lawyers for parenting, property or financial matters.**

## What is dispute resolution?

Dispute resolution, also known as mediation or family dispute resolution, can help couples who are separating to resolve their family law disputes.

Disputes may include conflicts over parenting and the care of children, child support, financial arrangements and how to divide their property.

Our service is provided with a focus on safety, the best interests of children, and ensuring that both people/parties can participate.

We provide more information on what dispute resolution is and how we provide it on our website at [rav.org.au/family-dispute-resolution](http://rav.org.au/family-dispute-resolution)

## Who is this service for?

This service is for separating couples, with or without children, who want to attend dispute resolution with their lawyers.

We welcome and respect diversity and our services cater to the needs of people from all backgrounds, including LGBTIQ+ people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

We take the safety and wellbeing of our clients very seriously. If you have any concerns about the safety of you or your children, please tell us immediately. If dispute resolution is not suitable for you and your circumstances, we will provide appropriate referrals to other services.

## How do I get started?

To get started, one party contacts us to organise an individual intake assessment.



**1300 364 277**



**[mediation@rav.org.au](mailto:mediation@rav.org.au)**

We will then contact the other party, in writing, to organise an individual intake assessment with them.

All Intervention Orders and Court Orders will be requested at this time, and the practitioner may request other court documents as well.

Once this is organised, we will schedule a tentative time for all parties to attend a dispute resolution session.

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We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waterways of Australia and we support Aboriginal people's right to self-determination and culturally safe services.



# What's the process?

## 1. Individual intake assessment

Before the dispute resolution session, both you and the other person involved in the dispute will attend a separate, individual assessment with a practitioner.

Your lawyer may attend the intake assessment with you if organised in advance with the practitioner.

This appointment allows the practitioner to understand your situation and helps you understand and prepare for the dispute resolution process.

The practitioner will also consider the different options available, to make sure that the process is appropriate to your case.

They may offer referrals to other services that they believe may help you.

## 2. Dispute resolution session

You and the other person involved will attend a dispute resolution session with a practitioner to help you to negotiate and reach an agreement.

Your lawyer/s also attends this session.

Using a step-by-step process, the practitioner will assist you to:

- identify the issues that need to be resolved
- communicate with each other clearly and respectfully
- explore and discuss different ideas and options
- negotiate about these options
- try and make agreements about some or all of these issues
- where a child is involved, focus on the child's best interests.

After the session, there is the option of attending further sessions, if this is needed and both parties agree.

## 3. Certificates for parenting matters

In parenting matters, the practitioner may issue a section 60I certificate recording parties' participation/non-participation in dispute resolution.

# About our practitioners

Dispute resolution is delivered by our highly experienced Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) Practitioners who are accredited by the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department and are qualified to work with couples and families going through divorce and separation.

FDR is regulated by the *Family Law Act 1975 (Commonwealth)* and the *Family Law (Family Dispute Resolution Practitioners) Regulations 2008*.

## How is this service delivered?

Individual assessments and dispute resolution sessions are currently provided online via video-conferencing or by telephone.

Face-to-face sessions may be organised under exceptional circumstances, if all parties agree.

## How much does it cost?

**Assessment fee:** Calculated on a sliding scale based on your income. We will discuss this with you when you contact us.

**Dispute resolution fee:** \$400 per person, per session (a session lasts up to 4 hours)

Please note: Fees apply when bookings are cancelled with less than 48 hours' notice.